REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6 - 13, and 15 - 23 are pending with claims 2, 3, 5, and 14 canceled and claims 15 - 23 added by this paper.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to specify the active ingredient and extrusion additive, as well as providing an adjuvant. Also, other amendments have been made to claim 1 and previously presented claims. None of these other amendments narrow the scope of the claims. These other amendments were made to correct grammar and to conform the claims to a typical U.S. prosecution practice.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §102(b)

Claims 1 - 6 and 10 - 14 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,618,560 (Bar-Shalom). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.
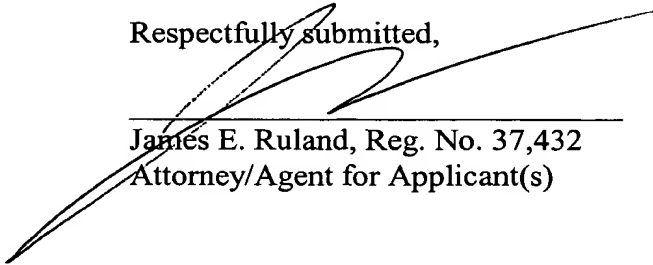
Bar-Shalom does not teach an active ingredient of 17-β-estradiol or ethinylestradiol. Consequently, Bar-Shalom cannot anticipate the present invention. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections should be withdrawn.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 7 - 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all the features of the base claim and other intervening claims.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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